

The Mirror

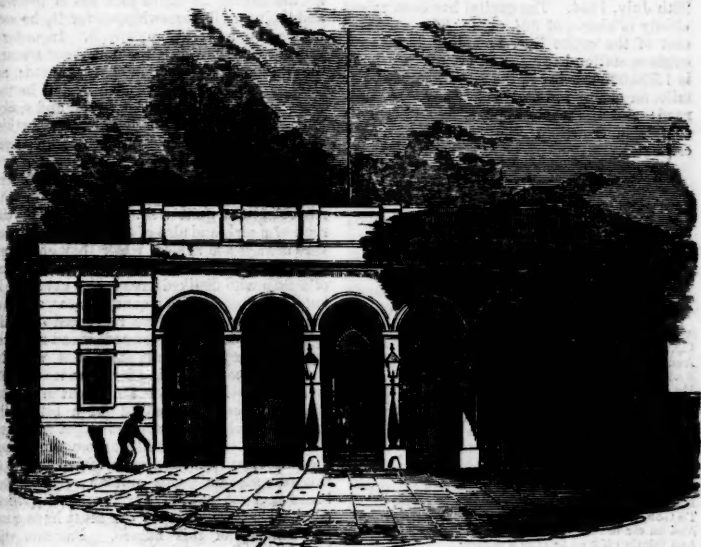
OF

LITERATURE, AMUSEMENT, AND INSTRUCTION.

No. 967.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1839.

PRICE 2d.



ENTRANCE TO THE SOUTHAMPTON RAILWAY,

NINE ELMS, VAUXHALL.

THE mind is lost in amazement and suspense while contemplating the results that will be produced by the introduction of travelling by steam, and which has already, although quite in its embryo, given a new feature to trade; and will, doubtless, eventually cause a complete revolution in the modes of conducting business. Among the many rail-roads, few eventually bid more fair to be of real public utility than the London and Southampton; which (after a trip by the directors for the purpose of testing its security,) was opened to the public on the twenty-first of May, 1838, as far as Woking Common.

The London entrance is at Nine Elms, Vauxhall, near the turnpike.

Almost immediately on turning into the road, the entrance to the railway will be seen on the left—an elegant and spacious structure, which contains offices for receiving the fares, waiting-rooms for the passengers, &c. The front of this building lies open to the river on the other side of the road, being intercepted only by the wharf at which the steam-boats disembark passengers for the railway.

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On entering the great station-house, the passenger pays his fare to the clerk appointed to receive it for the particular station to which he is going, and receives a ticket, which he will have to give up on alighting. He then passes through a doorway on the left, where he will see the line of carriages next to be started, placed close to the pavement on the left-hand side, under a spacious and well-lighted roof. If a first-class passenger, he will be shewn into one of the close coach-like-looking carriages, with glazed windows; if a second-class passenger, into one of those open at the sides. His luggage, if small enough, will be placed in a locker under his seat. If too large for that place, it will be taken due care of by the guards. Each passenger is allowed to carry 50lbs. of luggage without extra fee; the charge for all above that weight is 2s. for every 50lbs. up to 500cwt., and then 1s. per 100cwt. or 20s. per ton. Five minutes before the time of starting, a bell is rung as a signal for passengers to take their seats, and for the attendants to get every thing in readiness; and precisely at the appointed hour the trains

are set in motion, the second-class carriages first, next the first class, then the trucks on which stage coaches and other vehicles are placed, followed by horse-boxes, cattle and sheep carriages, &c.

The act of Parliament by which the company was incorporated, received the royal assent 25th July, 1834. The capital has been raised chiefly in shares of 50*l.* each. The estimated cost of the entire line, including locomotive engines, station-houses, and every other item, is 1,700,000*l.*, being at the rate of 21,000*l.* per mile, an outlay infinitely below any other railroad; and the whole work is expected to be completed at within 50,000*l.* of the original estimates.

MORNING.

FORN from the world of sunshine, laughing morn,
Come forth! come forth!
And to her shadows drive reluctant night;
Smile on the rose, and dry the diamond tears,
That she has wept for thee;
And she will turn in modest joy to thee her blushing cheek.

And to thy searching gaze reveal her charms.
Up, up, to heaven's gate thy lark ascends,
And hails thy coming with a joyous song;
And as he shakes the dew-drop from his wing,
He soars with joy into thy laughing face.
Then comes the fervent student, pale with thought,
And wearied with the dark night's vigils;
Mark how he turns his thankful eye to heaven,
As thy pure breezes fan his burning brow,
And chase each sombre thought at once away!
The little child arises from his couch,
And shading from his eyes the glorious sun,
Kneels down and offers up his oft-taught prayer
To God, who sent thee forth to wake him up;
And let me bend my knee with thee, sweet child,
And jointly offer up to Him a prayer,
Who to the anxious weeping mother said,—
"Suffer thy children to come unto me,
And, oh, forbid them not."

WILDER.

ABUSES IN DIET.

IN Dr. Elliotson's Lectures,* under the head of "Disorders of the Digestive Organs," the following striking instances of indulgence in improper food are narrated:—"Sometimes the appetite is depraved. You will sometimes see young ladies long for chalk, cluders, or sand; and they will bite glass,—munch it; and when it is small enough, they will swallow some of it. I saw a lady, the other day, who ate brown paper;—not paper hot-pressed and gilt-edged; but brown paper. She longed for something to eat; but did not know what. She wished for something that she had never eaten before; but she could not tell what;—nor could I. I have heard of cases where the patient longed for raw flesh, and even for *live* flesh; so that some have eaten live kittens and rats. This is an absolute fact. In the same

way, some have been known to long for the contents of snuffers; and even for manure. A case is described of a man who ate a live pig,—leaving the intestines; but, after a while, he ate them also. There is described, at full length, in a German work, the case of a boy who had such a longing for lime, that he ate all the mortar he could pick out of the wall; and being well horsewhipped for it, he commenced on a neighbour's wall. In order to prevent this, however, the neighbour smeared the wall with a decoction of wormwood; and the boy could no longer relish it; but he then went to the kennel in the street, and sucked up the sand. He had a desire for something dirty. After this, he got to some quick lime; and was forced to drink a large quantity of water, in order to extinguish his thirst. He had a distaste for proper food; but, in other respects, was quite well. I recollect having read of a girl, and also of a student at Leyden, who always ate spiders when they could get them; and no harm arose from it. I have read of a man who disliked bread, and never ate it; but he was seized with a quartan ague, and then ate a large quantity. He recovered from the ague; and the disgust towards bread returned again. Every one must have met with instances of females longing for what it was difficult to get,—longing for things out of season. There was one who longed for a bit of the priest's sleeve; and contrived to get at it, and bite it; not caring for his excommunication. I could relate cases, almost without end, of this description. One woman dipped her bread in a tar-tub. I never met with these extreme cases; but every one must have read of instances of this nature. Patients will long for chalk, sealing-wax, and all sorts of things; and are not always the worse for eating them. The stomach manages them pretty well;—such is the departure from the natural state of things. They will sometimes eat the most filthy things;—things that one would never think would be touched by any human beings except cannibals. They will even take pleasure in offensive smells. This, however, is an intense state of the affection. Sometimes the appetite is excessive; so that people will eat an immense quantity. People will eat many pounds of bread and meat, in the course of a day."

In illustration of Dr. Elliotson's last remark, we give an extract from one of the notes in Mr. Lane's new translation of the "Arabian Nights' Entertainments":—"On certain periodical festivals, and on some other occasions, it has long been, and still is a custom of Muslim princes, to give, in the palace, public feasts to all classes of their subjects. El-Makreessie quotes a curious account of the feasts which were given on the festival following Ramadan, to the inhabitants of Cairo, by the Fatimes Khaleefeh. At the upper end of a large saloon, was placed the sofa of the monarch; upon which he sat, with the Wazeer on his right. Upon this

* The Principles and Practice of Medicine. By John Elliotson, M.D., F.R.S. With notes, illustrations, and additions: by Nathaniel Rogers, M.D.

seat was placed a round silver table, with various delicacies, of which they alone ate. Before it, and extending nearly from the seat to the other end of the saloon, was set up a kind of table or platform of painted wood, resembling a number of benches placed together, and about eighteen feet in width. Along the middle of this table were arranged twenty-one enormous dishes; each containing twenty-one baked sheep, three years old, and fat; together with fowls, chickens, and young pigeons, in number three hundred and fifty of each kind;—all of which were piled together in an oblong form, to the height of the stature of a man, and enclosed with dry sweatmeat. The spaces between these dishes were occupied by nearly five hundred other earthenware dishes; each of which contained seven fowls, and was filled up with sweatmeats of various kinds. The table was strewn with flowers; and cakes of bread, made of the finest flower, were arranged along each side. There were also two great edifices of sweatmeats, each weighing seventeen hundred-weights, and carried thither by porters with shoulder-poles. One was placed on the table at the commencement, and the other at the end, of this sumptuous banquet. When the Khaleefeh and Wesser had taken their seats upon the sofa, the officers of state (who were distinguished by neck-rings or collars) and the inferior members of the court, seated themselves in the order of their respective ranks; and, when they had eaten, gave place to others. Two such feasts, given on the festival after Ramadan, and on the "great festival," cost four thousand deenârs, or about two thousand pounds sterling.

"Two military officers, named Ibn Faiz and Ed-Deylernee, distinguished themselves at these feasts in a very remarkable manner. Each of them used to eat a baked sheep, and ten fowls dressed with sweatmeats, and ten pounds of sweatmeats beside; and was presented with a quantity of food carried away from the feast to his house, together with a large sum of money. One of them had been a prisoner at Askalan; and after he had remained there some time, the person into whose power he had fallen jestingly told him that if he would eat a calf belonging to him, and the flesh of which weighed several hundred-weights, he would emancipate him. This feat he accomplished; and thus he obtained his liberation. Several cases, of a similar kind to those just mentioned, are instanced in a late work. One is told by Vopiscus, of a man who was brought before the Emperor Maximilian; and who devoured a whole calf, and was proceeding to eat up a sheep, but was prevented. Another is related of a man who commenced his repast (in the presence of Dr. Bechmen, of Whittenberg) by eating a raw sheep and a sucking pig; and (by way of dessert) swallowed sixty pounds of prunes,—since and all. An attendant of the Monarque in the Botanical Garden at Paris, used

to devour all the offal of the Theatre of Comparative Anatomy; and ate a dead lion in one day." These last instances are taken from that very interesting work,—Dr. Millengen's "Curiosities of Medical Experience."

Arts and Sciences.

ARCHITECTURE, &c.

Of all the branches of art to which man turns his attention, I think there are none, amongst the many, that points out more clearly the successive stages and advances of learning and moral improvement, combined with intellectual extension, than that of Architecture; for if we turn to by-gone times we shall find, if we examine the history of any particular country, that as learning spread its genial influence through the land, that architecture, in that country, rapidly improved at the same time, and, in many cases, in a far greater ratio than learning itself. We shall almost invariably find, that as the early inhabitants of any country emerge from their rude and barbarous state to anything at all comparable with civilization, the erection of buildings to shelter themselves from the inclemency of the weather, will be one of the first things to which they will turn their minds.

And, as the love of association constitutes an integral part of the general character of man, this principal will of itself, in a very great measure, account for the rise of villages, towns, and cities; for, as the pursuits of life draw men together, they find, from experience, that far more advantages result from associating with each other in clans or tribes, than roving solitarily through the lands in which Providence has placed them.

This we know to be the case from direct observation: certain it is, the wild Indian of the New World loves the society of his fellows as much as his more civilized neighbours—and he finds the advantage of this association present itself under a thousand different forms; and this same principle ultimately brings him into contact with clans amicably disposed; and this contact will be found, in its turn, to be productive of good, and in the end introduce commerce between them; and thus the seeds of civilization will be sown, in a soil the most likely to be productive of benefit, and of greater results than might be anticipated from such a source.

And, as commerce is the grand source from whence all power, all greatness, wealth, and learning proceeds, so shall we find in all cases, that as commerce increases in any country, the result will be the extension and cultivation of learning of all kinds; and, pre-eminent above all, architecture rises in all its simplicity to the utmost pinnacle of use and beauty—(I combine use with beauty, for I feel fully persuaded that one without the other, is like a beautiful face joined to a crippled body—nothing less than an abortion.)

It may be asked from what authority do I reason or argue that architecture, above all other arts, develops the progress of a country or kingdom towards a high state of moral and intellectual cultivation, better, or more distinctly, than any other?—One reason will plainly be, the durability of most architectural efforts in comparison with those of any other, though it must certainly be admitted that there are some works which claim an equal durability with architecture—and, indeed, a much greater in respect to perpetuity; thus, for instance, the noble poems of Homer will remain for ever, whilst many of the temples erected even subsequent to the time of that poet, are rapidly crumbling into ruins; and, in a few centuries, all that remains of them will be their name and locality; and even these, like the situation of old Troy, of which Homer so eloquently sung, may be doubtful, and lost amid the various revolutions of time.

Again, architecture, generally speaking, rises to its greatest perfection during the busiest and most active time of the affairs or commerce of any country. We know that the Romans, when in the plenitude of their power, and engaged in war from one part of the globe to another, did not neglect architecture; but, on the contrary, gave it as much attention as the engrossing affairs of the constant wars in which they were engaged would permit; and we are well aware that as the power and splendour of this once celebrated nation declined, so did, not only architecture, but nearly all other useful arts sink, from their greatest perfection then known, to a state of complete neglect, and were, in a great measure, lost during the subsequent troubles that ensued, and laid dormant for years, until learning again revived.

And when the power of ancient Rome was at its topmost pinnacle, sending forth its conquering legions to the remotest parts of the globe, then was the time of the greatest architectural glories of this most celebrated of cities; when her power flagged. When victory deserted her arms, and her conquering career was checked by the rude arms of barbarians, then her architecture, with all its glories and associations, began to retrograde and fall. And with the fall of architecture may be noticed the degeneration of nearly every other art then in existence: for architecture, by the vastness of its principles, and the multiplicity of its details, gives ample employment to a variety of other arts altogether distinct, and totally independent of architecture itself, as far as regards their principles, but in a great measure supported by it more than by any other. We are well aware that architecture itself could never reach anything like perfection without the aid and assistance of a variety of independent arts, and all of which are more or less advanced towards a state of perfection; and consequently where these are not, there cannot be any great architectural display.

D. L.

A POET'S GRAVE.

All that exists to this day to denote the burial-place of Thomson, is a square brass tablet, erected by the Earl of Buchan.

He sleeps! and o'er his grave no flowers are bending,
No trophied marble notes his place of rest;
No dew showers fresh from forest leaves descending,
Fall o'er the earth where sleeps a spirit blest.

How much of sorrow and pain is the poet's life,
Wherefore with tears lament his early doom;
To him death brings his first cessation from earth's
strife.

Repose and quiet mark his silent tomb.

The haunting dreams of Fame that filled his spirit,
Were life and light to him, the symbols vast
Of his immortal state—thus doth man inherit
The all-endearing link that gilds the past.

The shadows of twilight gently and softly steal
With the rich tint the golden sunset wears
O'er the still aisle whose walls a poet's name reveal,
The seasons songster freed from mortal care.

Deta.

THE CHASE.

On the outward passage to India (says an American writer) of a noble ship of six hundred tons, with a cargo of specie and American goods, and just before doubling the Cape, a suspicious looking vessel was discovered, dead to windward, under a press of canvass, bearing down upon her. The experienced eye of the captain instantly enabled him to determine that she was a small light schooner, but of that description that it would be far from desirable to have any acquaintance with her. Although he had a good supply of arms, and a brave crew, yet he knew they could not contend with a well-armed pirate. The ship was, therefore, put away before the wind, and every rag of canvass packed upon her that she could bear. The captain first looked upon his bending masts, covered with canvass to the very truck; then upon his gallant crew, who stood collected, having entire confidence in his skill and courage; and, at last, looking steadfastly upon the chase, he exclaimed:—"She gains—she gains—and there are many hours yet of daylight. A ship has the advantage of a small sharp craft with a floating sheet, but yet she gains; the danger is pressing—is imminent:—and lo! a new and terrible enemy appears, far to leeward." This new danger which had caught the eye of the captain, was a black cloud, which rising slowly from the horizon, gave but too sure an intimation of what might shortly be apprehended. The ship could not shorten sail, for if she had, the chase would have been upon her—the captain's plan was instantly laid. Every man was ordered to his post. The heavens grew more portentous every moment; but the pirate did not start a tack or sheet, which had he done, it would have enabled the merchantman to have gained a little before the hurricane came on. The wind freshened—the mast yielded to the tremendous pressure which they had to sustain—

the teeth of the stoutest seamen were set firm, in the apprehension that they would go by the board; and the steady eye of the captain was fixed upon the gathering storm. At last it came—the ocean in the distance was white with foam; and he, who was but a short time before, quiet and unmoved, became animated to the utmost exertion. "Let go all fore and aft; clew up and clew down; lay aloft," were orders which followed each other in quick succession, and were as quickly obeyed. The flapping sails were rapidly secured—the wind was lulled—the tornado was upon them, taking them aback. The ship fell off—she bent to the gale, until her yard-arms were in the waves; and she began to move through the water with a constantly accelerated motion. The pirate instantly perceived his advantage; he was near two miles dead to leeward of the Indiaman, which made greater headway under her bare-poles than he did; but the hurricane would not last long; and when it had passed over he knew that he should be close upon her, when she must fall an easy prey to him. The captain of the merchantman saw it all; and there was but one fearful way to escape. He had a gallant and staunch ship—she had not sprung a spar, nor split a sail—he had an extremely valuable cargo, and, at the same time, he would not see his men hung up to the yard-arm if he could by any means prevent it. Having set his fore-topsail, and close-reefed mainsail, the ship was urged through the water with great velocity. The pirate on perceiving the plan, attempted to make sail, but soon discovered that his only chance for safety was, if possible, to elude the shock at the moment of the expected concussion. The ship came down upon him with terrific precision. "Hard to port!" shouted the pirate to the helmsman. "Hard to port!" echoed the merchantman to his. One tremendous crash—one wild, frantic shriek of despair; and all was hushed in death. W. G. C.

Biography.

LIFE OF FLORIAN.

JEAN PIERRE CLARIS DE FLORIAN was the son of a gentleman of good family in the town of Languedoc; born in May, 1755, at the family seat, where he passed the first few years of his childhood. This chateau had been built by his grandfather, who was reported to have nearly ruined himself by building so large a mansion on so small a piece of land. His mother was of Castilian origin, and it was from her he derived his decided taste for Spanish literature, which is perceivable in the whole of his writings. Florian always showed the utmost grief for the loss of a mother whom he had never had the happiness of knowing; and it is, most likely, to this feeling of grief that we are indebted for that sweet and tender melancholy, which constitutes the charm of all his writings. When, after the lapse of some time, he

obtained success in literature, he still regretted that he could not partake it with her from whom he derived his existence, and to whom he thought he was indebted for his love for Spanish literature; for his father, though a brave and honourable man, was more intent on cultivating his land than his mind; whilst, on the other hand, his mother's chief delight was in the pursuit of literature, which made him revere her memory the more.

On his grandfather's death, the young Florian was sent to Hippolyto, where he learnt but little; but the natural powers of his mind, combined with the favourable reports of his behaviour, induced his father to give him a superior education.

In the *Memoirs* published under the name of the young Spaniard, he relates an anecdote which may be interesting to my young readers.

"Whilst at Neaflor, at which place I remained some time to little purpose, doing little but killing the sparrows with my gun, which I was tolerably expert at; as my father, having intended me for the army, had put a fusil into my hands when only about eight or nine, and reading such works as I could find in the library of the chateau, that which pleased me most was Homer's *Iliad*; the exploits of the Grecian heroes transporting me with pleasure. Whenever I had slain a bird at all remarkable for its plumage or its size, I did not fail to form a small funeral pile with some dry wood in the midst of the courtyard, and thereon deposit, with the utmost respect, the body of Patroclus or Sarpedon, and then I gravely placed fire under, and remained myself under arms to guard the body of my hero till it was consumed; then I gathered the ashes together into a vessel I had obtained for the purpose from the kitchen; I then carried my treasure home to show to my father."

One of Florian's uncles having married a niece of Voltaire's, they were frequently talking of the young Florian, and of the talents which he displayed. Voltaire became curious to see him, and, having seen him, conceived a liking for him; and, in fact, was so much pleased, that he gave him, in his letters, the names of Florianet and Procio. His first entrance into life was under the patronage of Voltaire.

This is the account which our author gives in his *Memoirs*, of which we have previously spoken, of his reception by Voltaire, whom he calls by the name of Lope de Vega.

"I was but six years old, but well informed that Lope de Vega had rendered himself superior to other men, by his very superior genius, and accordingly I felt great respect for him, which fifteen years has been unable to dissipate. He often placed me by him at table, and whilst many, who thought themselves important, and who dined with him solely to augment this importance, beheld him talking to, and attentively observing, a little child. The first question he put to me was, if I had

read much. Yes, sir, said I to him promptly, I have read the Iliad, and studied heraldry."

With de Ferney, Florian went to pass a few years in Paris, where he had masters assigned him to cultivate his talents; and as his family was by no means what might be called rich, he entered, in 1768, into the service of Duke de Penthièvre, in the situation of page; it being hoped that, in this capacity, he would be able to complete his education, and, in the end, obtain honourable employment. There, as with Voltaire, his mind, but, above all, the integrity of his heart, obtained for him the good will of all who knew him.

It was about this time that he composed his first work: a conversation respecting sermons happening to take place one day at the Duke de Penthièvre's, Florian having been appealed to, said, there was little or no difficulty in composing sermons, and that he would write one in very little time. The Duke took him at his word, and promised him fifty louis if he succeeded satisfactorily. The Abbot, St. Eustache, being present, was appointed the judge of the performance. Florian immediately set about his task with vigour, and at the end of a few days presented them with the result of his labours. It was on *Death*; and the Abbot, St. Eustache, having decided in his favour, the Duke immediately paid him with pleasure.

We quote a passage from this, the first of Florian's essays, copied literally from a faithful manuscript of the Sermon found amongst his papers. This *morceau* would be interesting, as being the first production of a celebrated author, but it becomes more so when we reflect, that the author was scarcely fifteen, and a page:—

"Death is every where;—in the midst of the titles which the ambitious seek to obtain; in the midst of the riches which the miser strives to amass; as well as in the pleasures which the voluptuary seeks to enjoy: in short, Death is the end of every thing. Follow me into the world, and contemplate with me all that the world is accustomed to adore, and behold Death there.

"The great of the world, those who, proud of their nobility or their dignity, consider themselves as sprung from dust nobler than mine;—these aristocrats, to whom we pay the tribute we have in some manner accustomed ourselves to pay their ancestors, and who think that the homage we thus render them is a duty which we owe them from the first moment of their birth;—where is he that dare calculate on the title that will raise him above his equals! each one of these titles is a benefit derived from Death! His nobility! It is hidden under a heap of corpses;—the more the pile increases, the more it ceases to be illustrious; and a heap of dust becomes the throne of this nobility, of which he is so proud, and on which he shall soon obtain for himself a place. His dignities!—To whom does he owe them? To Death! who had snatched away those who had

perhaps deserved them. Death makes his harvest of man, and but little remains for the ambitious to possess himself of, until death."

Whilst Florian was discharging the duties of page, he was for a long time undecided in his choice of a profession; he at last fixed on the military service, and entered into the corps which were then called the Royal Artillery Corps. He next went to Bahaum, where he joined himself to the Military College, and applied himself to the study of mathematics with an ardour which can be best judged of by perusing the following anecdote:—

"I often arrived there," said he, "in the middle of winter, riding by Don Juan's carriage, repeating all the while to myself a problem that I had with great difficulty demonstrated without a figure. I then descended, and traced on the sand with the handle of my whip two figures connected with a line, on which I calculated, and demonstrated the point where each had its centre of gravity; and when I had finished my demonstration I re-mounted, and gained, by hard riding, the time I had thus lost."

(To be continued.)

DOCTOR ROBERT MORRISON.

The great Chinese scholar and missionary, the founder of the Anglo-Chinese College, the author of the great Anglo-Chinese dictionary, (a stupendous monument of human ingenuity, labour, and perseverance,) and the first translator of the beauties and blessings of Scripture into a language spoken by upwards of four hundred millions of the human race—had to struggle against all the supposed obstacles of low birth and unlucky fortune. The son of a poor last and boot-tree maker in the town of Newcastle-on-Tyne, he was himself an apprentice and industrious workman at the same humble trade. But a passion for knowledge and intellectual attainment—originating in his case, it would seem, in an over-mastering religious sentiment—seized him in early life, and every incident in his after career only proved what surpassing purity and enduring strength belong to such a passion. Excellence was with him, as with other great scholars who have equally proved their easy superiority to adverse circumstance, the simple and natural result of a strong determination to excel. A good memory, and a lively sensibility to external impressions, are the only advantages we take him to have been at this period in possession of, besides the strength of resolution we have named. The last had its origin, as we have intimated, in a peculiar religious fervour which, though scarcely at that time so discreet in expression as it was always sincere and devout in feeling, yet animated him then, and to the latest moment of his life, with an unselfish desire to benefit his fellow-creatures. Nothing can conquer a desire which originates in such a motive, and proposes as its object the acquisition of knowledge. The love of know-

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ledge is, in itself, the attainment of knowledge. Poverty or toil discourage it in vain. It supplies the scarcity of time by the concentration of attention, and replaces comfort by self-denial. No man proved this better than the subject of this biography. No one ever proved more satisfactorily that the privileges and delights of intellectual cultivation depend upon the man himself, and not upon his external fortunes. The learned Doctor Morrison, surrounded by all the accommodations of study in his library and learned leisure at Canton, was not a more laborious or successful student than the last-maker's apprentice, who stole his leisure from toil-purchased sleep in the poor workshop of Newcastle.—*Examiner*.

POLYTECHNIC EXPERIMENTS.

SECOND SET.

(For the Series.)

HEAT.

WHAT is termed *repulsion* in the corpuscular particles of matter, is, it is well known, in some measure connected with heat: in plainer language, bodies *expand* under the influence of heat. Heat exists in everything.

Experiment 1.—Take a bar of iron, and hammer it dexterously for some time: it will become red-hot.

Experiment 2.—Compress air in a tube by means of a piston, and force it downwards suddenly; heat will be disengaged, and will set fire to German tinder.

Experiment 3.—Add phosphuretted hydrogen to oxygen gas; intense flame will result from this union of the two gases.

There is one very singular *exception* to the expansion of bodies by heat; viz. that water expands by *freezing*. It is a law of heat,—1st. that when fluids become solid, heat is liberated; and, 2d, that when a solid becomes a fluid or a fluid a gas, the substances become colder than before.

Experiment 4.—Combine muriatic acid gas, and ammoniacal gas, so as to form the substance called sal-ammoniac: heat will be liberated.

Also, throw water on burnt-lime; the water loses its fluidity, and forms a dry powder with the lime; and the lime swells up and becomes hotter than boiling water, throwing out clouds of steam.

Experiment 5.—In order to prove that when a solid becomes a fluid, the substances become colder,—mix snow, suddenly, with half its weight of common salt; they will instantly become liquid,—and if the ingredients were in the first instance at the freezing point, they will be reduced to 40° below it!

It now becomes necessary to explain, that different bodies contain more or less of caloric or inert heat; and therefore the same degree of heat that would raise one kind of matter 10°, would raise another only 5°. As an exam-

ple, the heat that would raise water 1°, would raise mercury 30°. In *Steam* (according to Lavoisier) the latent heat amounts to 1000 degrees. Some bodies *conduct* heat much better than others: metals are good conductors; wood is a bad one. Water heated to 150 degrees will scald; but air at 260 degrees is not productive of pain.

Experiment 6.—Take a piece of lead and a piece of cork, each of equal bulk, and place them in boiling water. When withdrawn and dried, the metal will be so hot that it cannot be held; whereas the cork appears only warm. Now, strange as it may seem, both contain the same quantity of heat: and if a thermometer be applied, it will stand at the same height for each! The fact is, that the metal conducts the heat *rapidly* to the hand, and the cork *slowly*.

Some bodies, such as lamp-black, paper, &c. throw off heat with facility—or, in other words, *radiate* it: but polished metals radiate badly, and are bad receivers of radiated heat. Now, what becomes of the heat flung upon polished metals? They *reflect* it.

Experiment 7.—Get two polished concave surfaces of block tin (the best tin-plate,) about two feet in diameter: hang one of them from the ceiling of a room twelve feet high. Hang within this a small wire receptacle, containing burning charcoal: place the other concave mirror on the floor. Take a piece of black paper, and on it lay a small quantity of gunpowder, and place it within the focus of the lower mirror;—it will explode. In this case the heat is *radiated* from the charcoal,—*reflected* from the upper mirror to the lower one, and by this latter *again reflected* before it reaches the gunpowder. During all this time, the reflecting mirrors remain *perfectly cold*. It is a remarkable fact, that a good radiator of heat, though hard and highly polished, will *not reflect*: glass, for instance, is a good radiator, and a glass mirror will not reflect, even though it have a brilliant metallic coating at the back.

ARMOUR.

Guy de Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, who died at Warwick Castle, 28th August, 1316, by his will of July in the preceding year, bequeathed to his son Thomas his best coat of mail, helmet, and suit of harness, with all that belonged thereto; to his second son, John, his second coat of mail, helmet and harness; and willed that all the rest of his armour, bows, and other warlike implements, should remain in Warwick Castle for his heir.

One of the most splendid suits of armour in Europe belonged to the renowned Alfonso II., Duke of Ferrara, Modena, &c., the patron of literature and the arts, and whom the pen of Tasso immortalized in the dedication to him of the *Gerusalemme Liberata*. He was born on the 19th of January, 1533, succeeded to the dukedom in 1558, died 27th of October, 1597.

VICTORIA COUNTY;

OR 150,000 ACRES RECOVERABLE FROM THE SEA.

DESIRE of territorial increase is a passion which has not ceased to agitate the breast of royalty, even from the first king on record, down to the last on the historic page; from Semiramis, the first queen, down to the last Czarina of Russia. That the same desire has existence in the bosom of our sovereign lady Victoria, we shall not, for a moment, stay to doubt. Even her high-souled prototype, Queen Elizabeth, was not free from this desire; and Raleigh, as we know, sought for her new realms and a golden El Dorado from abroad. But Raleigh's expedition was based on uncertainty and sarnise; not so, however, the present plan, which, by scientific survey and calculation, indubitably shows that no less than 150,000 acres of sound, fruitful, and luxuriant land may, by a proportionate expense, and that too without any other army than one composed of sappers, miners, and sturdy workmen, be peaceably and speedily put under the enlarged rule and governance of England's sceptre.

In elucidation of this statement, we have to remark, that there has long been a proposed plan for embanking the channels to the sea, and thereby reclaiming all the lands now overflowed by the encroaching tide; and Sir John Rennie, acting upon that plan, had some time since been employed to make a general report, fully explanatory of his opinions upon the subject. The result of Sir John's survey and calculations tended clearly to show that upwards of 150,000 acres of most useful land, (which, by proper and judicious management were capable of being rendered valuable and fructuous,) might be rescued from the sea, which would ultimately produce, after payment of all expenses and disbursements, a sum exceeding five millions of money.

Every ordinary reader is well acquainted with the engulfment of the Goodwin Sands, which occurred in the earlier times of our history; nor is that an isolated instance as regards the shores and beaches of our own country. Around the coast, it is well known, submersions and sinkings are not unfrequently occurring, though to us, indeed, imperceptibly, on account of the great lapse of time they take: and there are some geologists who maintain that portions of our coast are constantly carried off; and then, by submarine agencies, conveyed to coasts which they point out, and which are thereby constantly receiving new accessions and deposits. This is, however, the case only in certain parts of our coast; in general, where portions have been submerged, they continue so—unaltered, for indefinite periods.

To reclaim, therefore, such submerged portions or tracts, was the intention of Sir John Rennie's undertaking; and by divesting such parts of the waters which covered them, to restore rich territories to England, which, till this moment, she had for centuries been gra-

dually losing, owing to the ineffective checks used, or altogether neglected, in restraining the incursions of the sea.

But in further pursuance of Sir J. Rennie's valuable investigations, on the 2nd of last month, (August,) a meeting of public-spirited gentlemen interested in the improvement of the outfalls to the sea of the several rivers, Witham, Welland, Nene, and Ouse, below the ports Lynn, Boston, and Wisbeach, was held in Cockspur Street,* at which meeting, Sir John Rennie was in attendance, and where he read the result of his laborious investigations, which have been explained and alluded to above. At this meeting, certain resolutions were unanimously determined on, in furtherance of which, a deputation, consisting of Lord George Bentinck, M. P., Mr. Childers, M. P., Sir John Rennie, Mr. Frederick Lane, and the registrar to the Bedford Level Corporation, had an interview, on Friday the 5th of August, with Lord Duncannon, at the Office of Woods and Forests, relative to improving the outfalls to the sea below the harbours of Lynn, Wisbeach, and Boston, and reclaiming from the sea 150,000 acres of fertile land, as well as greatly improving the drainage and navigation by the rivers Ouse, Nene, Welland, and Witham, in the counties of Lincoln and Norfolk.

With the result of this interview we are unacquainted, but no doubt due attention will be paid to a subject of so great importance, and proper means eventually supplied by government towards the carrying so considerable a plan into effect.

It is said that this great work will actually add another county to England, and it is moreover intended to obtain permission to have the recovered land called by the name of Victoria County.

Such an accession would be a far more valuable addition to British territory, than that of a foreign addition, either in this or the other hemisphere; and considering that it would be an immediate appurtenant to our own country, would give land and subsistence to hundreds of fellow-countrymen, who are now, for lack of room and employ, emigrating to Zealand, Australia, and other settlements.

We heartily hope that any measure taken in the affair will be active, and, being active, that it will be of avail.

THE TOURNAMENT.

According to Davilla, the death of Henry the Second of France, when jousting, in 1559, with Gahiel, Count of Montgomeri, captain of his guard, was occasioned by the sudden opening of the helmet in order to give a little air. The lance had a short iron head, and that of his antagonist struck him in the right eye and pierced his brain.

* Vide Surveyors' and Engineers' Journal, No. 1.

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RIPON MINSTER.

THE town of Ripon, of great antiquity, is supposed to derive its name from the Latin *Ripa*, from its situation on the bank of the river Ure. It is in the West Riding of the county of York, twenty-three miles from the city of York, and 212 from London.

The earliest mention we find respecting it is about the middle of the seventh century, when a monastery was founded here by Eata, abbot of Melrose, in Scotland, (the town at that time consisting of only thirty houses,) which was subsequently given by Alfred, King of Northumbria, to Wilfred, Archbishop of York, who not only improved the monastery, but by his patronage of the town very much increased its wealth and consequence. In the ninth century it was plundered and burnt by the Danes; and so complete was the devastation, that only the remaining ruins denoted its former existence; it, however, recovered so quickly as to be incorporated a royal borough by Alfred the Great, in 886. William the Norman, who, after defeating the Northumbrians, in 1069, demolished this town so effectually that it remained for some time in ruins; and at the period of the Norman survey, it lay waste and uncultivated. Profiting by a period of comparative tranquillity, Ripon had again begun to revive, when it was once more exposed to the ravages of war, by the progress of the Scots, under Robert Bruce, in the reign of Edward II., who, after exacting from the inhabitants all that could be wrung from them, destroyed the town by fire. But by the industry of the inhabitants,

aided by donations of the gentry, it soon recovered, and was selected by Henry IV. for the residence of himself and court, when driven from London by the plague. In 1617, James I. passed a night here on his route from Scotland to London, and was presented by the mayor with a gilt bowl and a pair of Ripon spurs.

Ripon Church, or Minster, is dedicated to St. Peter and St. Wilfred; it is a large cruciform building, with two square towers at the west end, each one hundred and ten feet long, embattled and surmounted with pinnacles; and, in the centre, another square tower, standing upon four pillars with arches, and ornamented with a cupola on its north-western angle: on each of these towers there was, formerly, a spire, those on the towers at the western end being each one hundred and twenty feet in height, and that in the central tower still higher; but the latter having been blown down in 1660, caused considerable damage to the roof, the others were taken down. The length of the side aisles is one hundred and ten feet, and that of the transverse aisle, one hundred and twenty-nine. The choir is ninety-two feet in length, and thirty-four in breadth; on its southern side is a chapter-house, over which is the library, containing a good collection of ancient works, and portraits of many of the kings and queens of England. Under the nave of the church is a chapel, in which is a place called St. Wilfred's Needle. The bishop's throne and the stalls are ornamented with carved work: the

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east window, which is fifty-one feet by twenty-five, and in which are the arms of James I. of England and France; of the ecclesiastical society; and of the town; is very magnificent, the painted glass having been lately renovated: there are many beautiful and curious monuments in the church.

Ripon was the birth-place of the learned Beilby Porteus, bishop of London.

SUBSTITUTE FOR STEAM.

AN intelligent Prussian engineer has sent an account from St. Petersburg, of the progress of the experiments which Councillor Jacobi uninterruptedly carries on in that capital, to show that the Electromotor invented by him, affords a sufficient locomotive power to supersede steam. For the present, I can only mention the fact alleged in that account, that the Emperor has placed at the disposal of M. Jacobi, a small frigate, which the ingenious inventor has contrived to keep in motion for six successive weeks, without consuming ten pounds of zinc for the plates; and several competent judges already have pronounced it as their opinion, that the chief difficulties which at first sight appeared to them as insurmountable, are actually overcome.—*Berlin Correspondent; in the Morning Chronicle.*

THE WRELTON OAK.

THIS majestic oak, whose age is supposed to number upwards of 300 years, was cut down on the 17th of August. The length of the trunk was 20 feet, and the girth 12 feet. It stood upon the estate of Mr. Jacob Marshall, who has sold it to Mr. George Grayson, of Pickering. The cutting down of this venerable tree was celebrated as a festival by the inhabitants of Wrelton, and its surrounding neighbourhood. A numerous party dined upon the tree, under the presidency of Dr. Cole, and among the substantials served were a ramp of beef of two stone weight, given by Mr. Marshall, and a pie weighing three stone, given by Mr. Grayson. After the cloth was drawn, the health of the Queen, and many other loyal and social toasts were drunk, and heartily responded to by the company. The scene was further enlivened by a band of music which was in attendance; and the day being fine, dancing, and races among the villagers, with other rustic sports, occupied the time until the evening, when the company adjourned to the village inn, and the social glass, the song, the glee, and other convivialities, detained the guests for some time longer. The roots of this noble tree are of a beautifully variegated kind, adapted for snuff-boxes, and other trifles, for which, no doubt, they will be in great requisition, as many will be desirous to possess a relic of a tree so well known, and so much celebrated.—*York Courant.*

DURABILITY OF BUILDINGS.

[The following examples of the degree of durability of various edifices are given in the Report on the selection of stone for the new Houses of Parliament.]

"Of the sandstone buildings which we have examined, we may notice the remains of Ecclestone Abbey, of the thirteenth century, near Barnard Castle, constructed of a stone closely resembling that of Steton quarry, in the vicinity, as exhibiting the mouldings and other decorations, even to the dog's tooth ornament, in excellent condition. The circular keep of Barnard Castle, apparently also built of the same material, is in fine preservation. Tintern Abbey may also be noticed as a sandstone edifice, that has to a considerable extent resisted decomposition; for, although it is decayed in some parts, it is nearly perfect in others. Some portions of Whitley Abbey are likewise in a perfect state, whilst others are fast yielding to the effects of the atmosphere. The older portions of Ripon Cathedral constructed of sandstone are in a fair state of preservation. Rivaux Abbey is another good example of an ancient sandstone building in a fair condition. The Norman keep of Richmond Castle, in Yorkshire, affords an instance of moderately hard sandstone, which has well resisted decomposition.

"As examples of sandstone buildings of more recent date in a good state of preservation, we may mention Hardwicke Hall, Haddon Hall, and all the buildings of Craighleith stone in Edinburgh and its vicinity; of sandstone edifices in an advanced stage of decomposition, we may enumerate Durham Cathedral, the churches of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Carlisle Cathedral, Kirkstall Abbey, and the Fountains Abbey. The sandstone churches of Derby are also extremely decomposed, and the church of St. Peter, at Shaftsbury, is in such a state of decay, that some portions of the building are only prevented from falling by means of iron ties.

"As an example of an edifice constructed of a calciferous variety of sandstone, we may notice Tilsbury Church, which is in unequal condition, the moulding and other enrichments being in a perfect state, whilst the ashlar, apparently selected with less care, is fast mouldering away. The choir of Southwell Church may be mentioned as affording an instance of the durability of a magnesian-calcareous sandstone resembling that of Mansfield, after long exposure to the influence of the atmosphere.

"Of buildings constructed of magnesian limestone, we may mention the Norman portions of Southwark Church, built of stone similar to that of Bolsover-moor, which are throughout in a perfect state, the mouldings and carved enrichments being as sharp as when first executed. The keep of Koningsburg Castle, built of a magnesian limestone from the vicinity, is also in a perfect state,

although the joints of the masonry are open in consequence of the decomposition and disappearance of the mortar formerly within them. The church at Hemmingsburgh, of the fifteenth century, constructed of a material resembling the stone from Huddleston, does not exhibit any appearance of decay. Tick-hill Church, of the fifteenth century, built of a similar material, is in a fair state of preservation. Huddleston-hall, of the sixteenth century, constructed of the stone of the immediate vicinity, is also in good condition. Roche Abbey, of the thirteenth century, in which stone from the immediate neighbourhood has been employed, exhibits generally a fair state of preservation, although some portions have yielded to the effects of the atmosphere. As examples of magnesian limestone buildings in a more advanced stage of decay, we may notice the churches at York, and a large portion of the Minster, Howden Church, Doncaster old church, and others in this part of the country, many of which are so much decomposed, that the mouldings, carvings, and other architectural decorations, are often entirely effaced. We may here remark, that as far as our observations extend, in proportion as the stone employed in magnesian limestone buildings is chryselline, so does it appear to have resisted the decomposing effects of the atmosphere; a conclusion in accordance with the opinion of Professor Daniel, who has stated to us, that from the results of experiments, he is of opinion that the nearer the magnesian limestones approach to equivalent proportions of carbonate of lime and carbonate of magnesia, the more chryselline and better they are in every respect.

"Of buildings constructed of oolitic and other limestones, we may notice the church of Byland Abbey, of the twelfth century, especially the west front, built of stone from the immediate vicinity, as being in an almost perfect state of preservation. Sandyfoot Castle, near Weymouth, constructed in the time of Henry the Eighth, is an example of that material in excellent condition, a few decomposed stones used in the interior (and which are exceptions to this fact) being from another oolite, in the immediate vicinity of the Castle. Bow and Arrow Castle, and the neighbouring ruins of the church, of the fourteenth century, in the island of Portland, also afford instances of the Portland oolite in perfect condition. The new church in the island, built in 1766, of a variety of the Portland stone, termed *Roach*, is in excellent state throughout, even to the preservation of the marks of the chisel.

"The churches of Stamford, Ketton, Colley Weston, Kettering, and other places in that part of the country, attest the durability of the shelly oolite, termed *Barnack Rag*, with the exception of those portions of some of them, for which the stone has been ill selected. The excellent condition of the parts which remain of Glastonbury Abbey, show the value of a shelly limestone similar to that of Dou-

ling; whilst the stone employed in Wells Cathedral, apparently of the same kind, and not selected with equal care, is in parts decomposed.

"In the public buildings of Oxford, we have a marked instance, both of the decomposition and durability in the materials employed, for whilst a shelly oolite, similar to that of Tyn-ton, which is employed in the more ancient parts of the cathedral, in Merton College chapel, &c., is generally in a good state of preservation, a calcareous stone, from Heddington, employed in nearly the whole of the colleges, churches, and other public buildings, is in such a deplorable state of decay, as in some instances to have caused all traces of architectural decoration to disappear, and the ashler itself to be in many places deeply disintegrated.

"In Spofforth Castle we have a striking example of the unequal decomposition of two materials, a magnesian limestone and a sandstone: the former employed in the decorated parts, and the latter for the ashler or plain facing of the walls. Although the magnesian limestone has been equally exposed with the sandstone to the decomposing effects of the atmosphere, it has remained as perfect in form as when first employed, whilst the sandstone has suffered considerably from decomposition.

"Judging, therefore, from the evidence afforded by buildings of various dates, there would appear to be many varieties of sandstone and limestone employed for building purposes, which successfully resist the destructive effects of atmospheric influence. Amongst these, the sandstones of Stenton, Whitby, Tintern, Rivaulx, and Craighleith; the magnesian-calcareous sandstone of Mansfield; the calciferous sandstone of Tinsbury; the chryselline-magnesian limestone or dolomites of Bolsover-moor, Huddesline, and Roche Abbey; the oolites and limestone of Barnack and Hambill, and the siliciferous limestones of Chelmark, appear to be amongst the most durable. To these, which may all be considered desirable building materials, we are inclined to add the sandstone of Darley Dale, Hambill, Longannet, and Crowbank; the magnesian limestone of Robin Hood's Well, and the oolite of Ketton, although some of them may not have the evidence of ancient buildings in their favour."

BOUNDARIES OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE IN THE EAST.

Among the greatest phenomena in the history of the world may, undoubtedly, be reckoned the British Empire in the East Indies.

This empire has, within a single century, risen from the humble rank of a trading factory to an *imperium* of more than 100,000,000 of inhabitants, with an equal number (100,000,000) who, though under their own princes, still obey the British power, extends over 1,250,000 *English square miles* of

the most fertile part of the surface of the earth (from 8° latitude to 35°, and from 68° longitude to 92°), and consequently contains a polar altitude the same as from *Messina to Torneo*, and a breadth as from *Lisbon to Smolensk*, which shows that it cannot be compared to anything in Europe, either as to size or population, any more than in difference of climate and temperature, but that it must be compared with *Europe itself*. This empire has within its boundaries, the *Gauts* and *Himalay* mountains always covered with ice, which rise, the former 13,000, the latter 27,000 feet above the level of the sea; it is intersected by rivers, each of which, like the *Indus*, *Jumna*, *Sutledge*, *Ganges*, and *Brahmapootra*, offers a navigation of not less than 1,200 English miles, and the two last-mentioned during certain months pour into the Bay of Bengal a mass of water containing more than 1,000,000,000 cubic feet in an hour. It has for its defence a standing army excellently disciplined, and considerably greater than that of Austria, and a revenue half as large again as Russia. Within its boundaries there are towns which, like *Calcutta*, have a population of a million; others which, like *Delhi*, *Agra*, *Benares*, *Luckno*, and *Pooná*, reckon from 300,000 to 500,000 inhabitants; and others again—*Madras* and *Bombay*, which carry on a trade greater than that of ancient *Carthage*, *Venice*, or *Genoa*, during their most flourishing periods. It has kings as vassals, with a greater number of subjects than Naples; of dynasties older than the Bourbons; and the emperor in Hindoostan, the descendant of Tamerlane (Timur Khan), the great Moghul, sits still on his golden throne, in Delhi, surrounded by all the grandeur of the East, himself only a prisoner in the power of the British.—*Lit. Gazette.*

ON MENTAL ACQUIREMENTS.

(For the Mirror.)

He who wishes to become *thoroughly learned*, must read much, write much, and study hard; and he who would become *thoroughly wise*, must be well educated in the great and grand school of adversity—

Where those who want to learn, should go instead of college.

For there it is a man may pick up knowledge.

But the question is, whether extraordinary mental acquirements make us happy or miserable in the course of our journey through life. That learning does not beget riches any more than riches beget happiness, we have abundance of proof. He who is *literary*, is seldom *rich*; and he who is *rich*, is seldom *literary*. We may, therefore, perhaps, conclude that it is better for those whom fortune has not favoured with riches, and who have not the means of maintaining their dignity according to the learning they may acquire, *not to know too much.*

R. S.

THE SALT-MINES OF HALLEIN.

We descended about two hundred steps cut in the rock, at the termination of this first passage, in order to reach another and lower portion of it, which brought us to the brink of what appeared to me a bottomless pit. The "darkness visible" of the place at first hardly permitted a more careful survey; but when the eye became, at last, accustomed to the dingy atmosphere, I could perceive before me a narrow inclined plane, at an angle of forty degrees, the terminus of which was left entirely to imagination to divine. On the inclined plane, and in the direction of its axis, two parallel lines, one foot apart, formed of smooth, polished, wooden cylinders, (being portions of the trunks of fir-trees,) six inches in diameter, placed contiguous to one another, are laid down, and secured by short cross-pieces. A tightly-drawn rope runs close to, and parallel with, the cylinder on the right.

Litner here looked round for the first time since we had entered these singular regions, and pulling from my girdle the glove, bid me put it on my right hand, and follow his example. He grinned at the same time a smile of encouragement, probably because he saw on my pale face the momentary feeling of my heart. Litner next stretched himself upon the inclined plane, keeping his head somewhat erect, and touching with his body both wooden cylinders, across which his legs were thrown slanting. He held his light with the left, while within the palm of the right he grasped the tight rope, keeping the thumb free and aloof from it.

There was a momentary pause on my part. Litner had not explained to me the object of this *montagne russe*, as I took it to be; nor were it would lead to, nor how deep it was. The mind of man can, by resolution, encounter the greatest danger without dismay, if it be but seen; against a threatening evil that is known, we can put on the armour of courage and brave the worst; but, to face an evil we know not of, is a task from which the stoutest often recoil. A thousand accidents might happen; giddiness might follow the rapid downward descent for which I was bidden to prepare; my hand might not stand the quick friction of the rope, or cramp might supervene to prevent its proper grasp. Still, others had gone down before me, and the stern being then lying at my feet had done so a thousand times. The situation was one of my own seeking, and there was no receding without shame. I stopped, therefore, on the brink of the dark abyss, behind my guide, seated myself on the cylinders, and placed my feet against Litner's broad shoulders, while, with my hand passed under the rope, I strove to gain some security by holding it tight. The moment Litner felt the weight of my person inclining against him, he suffered himself to slide downwards, followed by me; and down, down we glided, at a giddy pace, my breath-

ing held in suspense, so that the dead silence of the dark cavern into which we were thus plunging, resounded only with the wind-like hissing of the rope, as it passed rapidly over the rough glove in our hands, and with the distant murmuring and splashing of unseen and falling water. In one minute and a half we were again on our feet at the end of the shaft, called Freudenberge Rolle, 300 feet deep.

Hitherto, fear had given way to admiration, and fatigue to the pleasure of witnessing these stupendous works of nature and man. But the greatest surprise was yet to come, and great it was indeed, when, upon the throwing open of a door which seemed to bar the avenue we were then pursuing, I suddenly emerged, from comparative darkness and a narrow pass, into a wide expanse, lighted up all round by hundreds of tapers. These, being reflected from the surface of a dark and still lake of liquid brine, which spreads widely below them, and from the low and extended ceiling above, which was sparkling with the deliquescent moisture of the salt rock, seemed at first to be of 10 times their real number. The sudden appearance, too, of several of the miners in their bizarre costume, whispering in low murmurs to each other—some on the brink of this dismal lake looking on, while others were pushing a flat bark on its liquid surface to the spot on which I stood, inviting me at the same time, and by mute signs only, to embark on it—added to my first surprise the more intense feeling of interest. At the first glance, one might have fancied himself in a very large square at night, surrounded by an illuminated town; and the veins of salt rock, which were of red, green, yellow, white, and blue tints, mixed with crystals of selinite, sparkled and shone like precious stones.—*Dr. Granville's Spas of Germany.*

THE PRIEST AND THE OSTLER.

I REMEMBER once hearing a story of an ostler who confessed to a Catholic priest: he enumerated a long catalogue of enormities peculiar to his profession, and when he had finished, the priest inquired of him "whether he had ever greased horses' teeth to prevent their eating their corn?" this peculiar offence not having been mentioned in his confession. The ostler declared that he never had; absolution was given, and he departed. About six months afterwards, the ostler went again to unload his conscience; the former crimes and peccadilloes were enumerated, but, added to them were several acknowledgments of having at various times, "*greased horses' teeth,*" to prevent their eating their corn. "Ho—ho!" cried the priest, "why, if I recollect right, according to your former confession, you had never been guilty of this practice. How comes it that you have added this crime to your many others?" "May it please you, father," replied the ostler, "I had never *heard of it* until you told me."—*Captain Marryatt's America.*

CONDITION OF THE ENGLISH NAVY IN THE REIGN OF HENRY V.

THE Kings of England, in the eleventh, twelfth, and thirteenth centuries, had occasionally large fleets under their command, but they consisted of merchant ships only, coming from the different ports of England, or hired from foreign countries; those of England on such emergencies being pressed, with their crews, into the king's service. In 1304, the largest ship of war in England, according to Dr. Henry, had a crew only of 40 men; and, in the fleet of Edward the Third, at the siege of Calais, in 1346, the complement of each ship, upon an average, must have been under 20 men. Henry the Fifth was the first of our kings who established a permanent navy. There is a letter to him from John Alcestre, which details minutely the progress of certain workmen at Bayonne, in constructing a vessel of considerable size, which the king had ordered to be built. Bayonne was then the last town in the Duchy of Aquitaine. The mayor and corporation had contracted with the king for the completion of this vessel within a certain time; but the writer of the letter thinks it could not be ready, and that it would take even four or five years to finish. The ship, as the timbers had been laid down, was one hundred and eighty-six feet in length. From a passage in a rhyming pamphlet written 1433, printed by Hakluyt, entitled "*The Libel of English Policy,*" it appears that Henry the Fifth built other large ships:—

And if I should conclude all by the King
Henrie the Fifth, what was his purposing.
When at Hampton *he made the great Daumonts.*
Which pos-sed other great ships of all the Commones;
The *Travaille, the Grace de Dieu, the Holy Ghost.*
And other mee which now be lost.

The ships of the King, and those of the Commons, are here distinguished; the Royal Navy, from the vessels which were supplied by the sea-ports, or hired abroad. The entire list of Henry's own ships, in the fourth year of his reign, is preserved among the proceedings of his council. They consisted of three vessels of the greater size, three carracks, eight barges, and ten balingers or smaller barges. In a document of the antecedent year, among the same proceedings of council, we have the pay of the officers and sailors of the king's great ships, employed in keeping the narrow seas.

The admiral received for a quarter of a year and thirty-nine days' service, wages for fifty men at arms, twelve pence per day each; and for a hundred and fifty bowmen at sixpence a day each—making a total of 812*l.* 10*s.* For the wages during the same time of four masters of respective ships, and two hundred

• "The following was the equipment of the ship in which, in 1405-7, Henry IV. carried Pothlips, his sister, Queen of Denmark, Sweden, and Norway, to her home:—Two guns, 40 pounds of powder, 40 stones for guns, 40 tampons, 40 touches, one mallet, two fire-pans, 40 panya, 24 bows, and 40 sheaf of arrows."—*Rym. Förel.* tom. viij. p. 447.

and fifty mariners; the former at sixpence a day, and the mariners at threepence, he received 819*l.* 5*s.* The name of *Dromons*, given in the "*Libel of English Policie*," to the great ships of Henry the Fifth, requires explanation. The term was of a date much earlier than the fifteenth century, and seems to have been borrowed from the Saracens. It meant ships of the largest size, and strongest construction. The famous ship, which was taken by King Richard the First, near the port of Acon, and which contained no fewer than fifteen hundred men, is so named by Matthew Paris.

It is also shown by another curious letter, that the desire of Henry the Fifth to have vessels of a large size was not unnoticed by the Spaniards, who appear to have sent to him several, particularly two carracks, one of which is described as of a tonnage equal to fourteen hundred, and the other to ten hundred boats. The carrack is supposed to have obtained its name from its capacity for carriage.—*Cottonian MSS.: Brit. Museum.*

PLANTS AND FISHES IN HOT SPRINGS.

(From the French of Mr. Sonnerat.)

"I found at about six miles from Calamba, in the island of Laçon, a spring, the water of which was of sufficient heat to make it painful to hold one's hand in it. I thought that surely all vegetation on its banks was impossible, but was much surprised to find several bushes in full vigour, their roots bathed by the water, and their foliage enveloped in its vapours. The latter were possessed of such deteriorating properties, that birds flying at the height of six feet or so, fell lifeless. Judge of my surprise then, when, on looking more closely into this spring, I discovered a number of small fishes swimming merrily about, and so lively, as to render it almost impossible to catch them. They were covered with scales of a brownish hue, and measured about four or five inches in length."

Since translating the above, I have met with a similar notice in the Entomology of Kirby and Spence. "The most extraordinary circumstance that Lord Bute relates, is, that not only conifers were found in the boiling springs, (in the Paduan States), but numbers of small black-beetles, that died upon being taken out and plunged into cold water." (Vol. II. p. 231.) H. M.

DELUSIVE BIRTH OF THE PRINCE OF PHILIP AND MARY.

DURING the time that Sir Thomas Gresham was in Antwerp, [4th May, 1555,] he wrote thus to the lords of the council.—"It may please your most honourable lordships to be

* The above forms a foot-note in the "*Epoques de la Nature*," of Buffon.

advertised, that as the iind of this present, here came newes along the seas, by men of this country, that the Queene's Majesty was brought a-bed of a yonge prynce, the last of April; which newes contynewed here till the iiiith day. And as the thyrde day, the regent, being in this town of Andwerpe, about 7 of the clocke at night, dyd cause the great bell to ringe, to give all men to understand that the newes was trewe. Signifying unto your honours, that as the iind day, upon the arryvall of the fyrst newes, the queene's highness' mere merchants, according to their most boundyd dewtye, causseyd all our Inglish ships to shoote off, with such joy and triumph as by man's art and pollicy could be devysed, in the presence of the regent, with all her nobills and gentiwomen. Whereupon the regent presently sent our Inglish maroners one hundred crowns to dryncke. Trusting in God the newes to be trewe; for as yet I, nor none of our nacion hath no certayne wryting thereof." Notwithstanding a certain degree of concern which this passage in Queen Mary's history excites, there is something irresistibly ludicrous in the accounts transmitted to us of the extent to which the delusion alluded to was indulged. "All the court," says Grafton, "was full of midwives, nurses, and rockers; and this talk continued almost half a year, and was affirmed true by some of her physicians, and other persons about her; which seemed both grave and credible. Insomuch that divers were punished for saying the contrary." On the 3d of May, the Bishop of Norwich received "the sodeine good newes of the queene's highnes most joyfull deliverance of a nooble prince: whereupon to laude God *Te Deum* was solemnly sung in the Cathedral Church, and other places of the cytye [of Norwich] wyth woonderfull joye and muche gladness of all people throughout all the whole cytye and the countrey thereaboutes." "The parson of Saint Anne within Aldergate," says Foxe, "after procession, and *Te Deum* sung, took upon him to describe the proportion of the child; how faire, how beautiful, and how great a prince it was, as the like had not been seen." But by far the most extraordinary circumstance connected with this delusion has never yet been noticed in print. There is in the State Paper Office an original letter to Cardinal Pole, signed by Philip and Mary, announcing the birth of a prince as an event which had already occurred. "Whereas it hath pleased Almighty God of his infinite goodness to adde vnto the great number of other his benefites bestowed vpon vs, the gladding of vs with the happy deliverie of a prince." The date is left blank, but the letter is endorsed "29th May, 1555."

* From Burgon's interesting Life and Times of Sir Thomas Gresham. 2 v. Jennings.

FORM OF CHALLENGES.

THE form of Challenges used in ancient Chivalry was maintained so lately as the time of Henry the Fourth of France. Robert d'Evreux, Earl of Essex, who commanded the forces sent by Queen Elizabeth to aid that monarch in 1591, wrote to the Admiral André de Villars Brancas—"If you will yourself fight on foot, or horseback, I will maintain the King's quarrel to be more just than that of the League; that I am a better man than you; and that my mistress is handsomer than yours. If you are not for fighting singly, I will bring twenty with me, the worst of whom shall be a match for a colonel; or sixty, and the least, a captain." To this challenge, the admiral replied—"As to the close of your letter, where you are for maintaining you are a better man than me, I tell you, that you lie, and will lie whenever you say so; and that you likewise lie, in saying that the quarrel which I assert in the defence of my religion, is not better than that of those who are striving to overthrow it; and as to comparing your mistress to mine—this is as void of truth as the others: this, however, at present, gives me little concern." Thus ended the matter; yet how singularly unhappy was the fate of these gallant hearts—the earl, the adored favourite of his queen, was eventually, to her deeply-felt chagrin, beheaded by the common executioner; and the admiral fell by the vile hands of some assassins, hired by a Spanish commissary.

PRINCES OF THE BLOOD

WHO HAVE BEEN LORD LIEUTENANTS OF IRELAND.

- 1184. JOHN, son to King Henry II.
- 1361. Lionel Duke of Clarence, third son of Edward III. and in right of his wife, the Lady Elizabeth de Burgo or Burke, Earl of Ulster.
- 1380. Roger Mortimer, Earl of March and Ulster, grandson to the Duke of Clarence, by his daughter Philippa, only issue of the above marriage.
- 1395. The same.
- 1416. Thomas of Lancaster, Duke of Clarence, brother to Henry V.
- 1449. Richard, Duke of York.
- 1459. The same again.
- 1460. George, Duke of Clarence, his son.
- 1479. Richard, Duke of York, son to Edward IV.
- 1483. Edward, Prince of Wales, son to Richard III.
- 1484. John de la Pole, Earl of Lincoln, nephew to Richard III.
- 1501. Henry, Duke of York, afterwards King Henry VIII.
- Lionel, Duke of Clarence, was Earl of Ulster, in Ireland, in right of his wife, before he was Duke of Clarence. He resided in that kingdom as Lord Lieutenant, from 1361 to 1365.

Roger Mortimer, his grandson, and Earl of Ulster and March, was twice Lord Lieutenant, once in 1380, and again in 1395. A pretty strong proof that this prince had resided in Ireland is, that he was killed there in battle against the O'Mores, in 1398.

This prince held a higher rank in the state than the present Duke of Sussex does now; for before he went last to Ireland, he was declared by act of Parliament presumptive heir to the crown of England, then worn by Richard II.; and yet, notwithstanding this high rank, he not only accepted the government of Ireland, but administered it in person, and lost his life against the Irish, who had taken up arms to recover their independence.

Richard Duke of York, father of Edward IV., of George Duke of Clarence, and of Richard III., governed Ireland in person, having inherited the Irish estates of his grandfather, the above Roger Mortimer, and also his right to the crown.

The friends of the House of Lancaster used to say, that this prince had learned but too well to play the king, by having been too long left at the head of the government in both France and Ireland.

George, Duke of Clarence, his second surviving son, was appointed Lord Lieutenant of Ireland for life. This prince certainly was in Ireland, for it was there he was born.

John de la Pole, Earl of Lincoln, was appointed Lord Lieutenant by his uncle, Richard III., who also declared him presumptive heir to the crown.

It is not pretended to say that this prince was in Ireland during his Lieutenancy; but he certainly resided some time in that kingdom; for in 1487 he was present, in Christ Church, Dublin, at the coronation of Lambert Simnel, whom the Irish had received as Earl of Warwick, the son of their favourite and countryman, the Duke of Clarence.

From Ireland, the Earl of Lincoln, with the Earl of Kildare, and an army of 8,000 men, went to place Lambert Simnel on the throne; but the two earls lost their lives fighting gallantly at the battle of Stoke.

THE DYING STRUGGLES OF A WOUNDED BIRD.

THE most melancholy ornithological exhibition that I remember to have witnessed, was that of a wounded dipper, which was shot through the lungs, above Cramond Bridge, near Edinburgh. It stood still, without attempting to fly off, apparently insensible to all external objects, its legs bent, its wings drooping, its head declined. The blood was oozing from its side and gurgling in its wind-pipe, which the poor bird made ineffectual efforts to clear. At intervals a convulsive heaving of the chest took place, followed by an effort to vomit; and in this state, the sufferer stood for five minutes, until I got over

the stream to it, when it expired in my hand. In the agony of death, the pupil became contracted to a mere point, and presently after dilated, when the lower eyelid gradually rose and covered the eye. This is commonly the case in birds, which do not expire with the eyes open like man, and most quadrupeds.—*Macgillivray's History of British Birds.*

HORSE ARMOUR.

The horse armour which belonged to the Emperor Maximilian the First, was particularly curious. The pottrel represented an angel, with expanded wings, holding a shield, as often seen in ecclesiastical sculpture; and those pieces of the croupiers which hang over the haunches of the horse, have the form of eagles.

The Gatherer.

Morality.—Human nature is so constituted by the Creator, that morality is as necessary to the prosperity of mankind, as oxygen to combustion, caloric to vegetation, and respiration to human life.—*Spurzheim.*

Taverns.—As public-houses and beer-shops form so prominent a part of legislative discussion, it may serve to show the altered state of society at the present day from what it was in the year 1552, to notice that, in that year, an act was sanctioned by Edward IV., restraining the number of taverns to 40 in London, 8 in York, 4 in Norwich, 3 in Westminster, 6 in Bristol, 3 in Lincoln, 4 in Hull, 3 in Shrewsbury, 4 in Exeter, 3 in Salisbury, 4 in Gloucester, 4 in Chester, 3 in Hereford, 3 in Worcester, 3 in Oxford, 4 in Cambridge, 3 in Southampton, 4 in Canterbury, 3 in Ipswich, 3 in Winchester, 3 in Colchester, and 4 in Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

The Chevalier de Klenze, of Munich, lately visited St. Petersburg, by desire of the Emperor, to submit designs for a new Museum for sculpture and pictures. One has been approved, and the structure will probably be the most magnificent in Europe. It is to be attached to the Hermitage Palace, the back buildings of which are to be pulled down to make way for the new pile. The entrance will be very striking, the giant figures of the Temple of Jupiter, at Agrigentum, in Sicily, having suggested its most prominent decoration. A superb staircase, with noble colonnades of marble or granite on each side, will lead to the upper range of galleries for the paintings, and, in fact, no expense will be spared in order to make this museum exceed in splendour those of Berlin, Munich, or Paris.

William Wilkins, M. A., F. R. S., the talented Professor of Architecture of the Royal Academy, and architect of many of our public buildings, which bespeak taste and genius, died at his house, near Cambridge, Saturday, August 31, 1839, aged 61. He was buried in the chapel of the College of Corpus Christi.

The rebuilding of the Kremlin, which is confided to the Baron de Bode, one of the crown architects, is proceeding with great activity. It is built in the old style of Russo-Tartar architecture. Upon the roof, there is to be a terem, or large pavilion, in form of a tent, such as was found in all the places of residence of the ancient czars, and in which they shut up their women. The interior of the palace will correspond with the exterior, as the disposition of the apartments, their form, ornaments, tapestry, and furniture, even to the most minute details, are to be in the Russo-Tartar style.

The Earl of Arundel [*temp.* Charles I.] was the first person who brought over from Italy the new way of building with bricks.

Experimental Paving in Oxford-street.—The Marybone Paving Committee have resolved to recommend the vestry to adopt Mr. Stead's wooden block paving, the surface being found to be as smooth and even as when first laid down.

Comparison of Speed.—A French scientific journal states, that the ordinary rate is, per second,

	Fath.
Of a man walking - - - - -	4
Of a good horse in harness - - - - -	12
Of a reindeer, in a sledge on the ice - - - - -	26
Of an English race-horse - - - - -	43
Of a hare - - - - -	88
Of a good sailing ship - - - - -	14
Of the wind - - - - -	82
Of sound - - - - -	1,038
Of a 24-pounder cannon-ball - - - - -	1,300
Of the air which, so divided, returns into space - - - - -	1,300

The entire population of Russia, on the 1st of January, 1839, was about 60,000,000 of inhabitants.

Fine Arts in the Provinces.—At the great room of the Athenæum, at Plymouth, is an exhibition of pictures by modern artists, most of them provincial.

Those who, in the day of sorrow, have owned God's presence in the cloud, will find him also to be in the pillar of fire, brightening and cheering their abode as night comes on.—*Observ. by E. W.*

Remarkable instances of Longevity in Russia, in 1838.—858 reached the age of from 100 to 105; 125 that of 110 to 115; 150 that of 116 to 120; 111 that of 121 to 125; 3 that of 126 to 130; 5 that of 131 to 140; 1 that of 145; 3 that of 150 to 155; 1 that of 160; and 1 that of 165.

At the late Leeds Public Exhibition, No. 249 consisted of the ashes of 500,000 bank notes.

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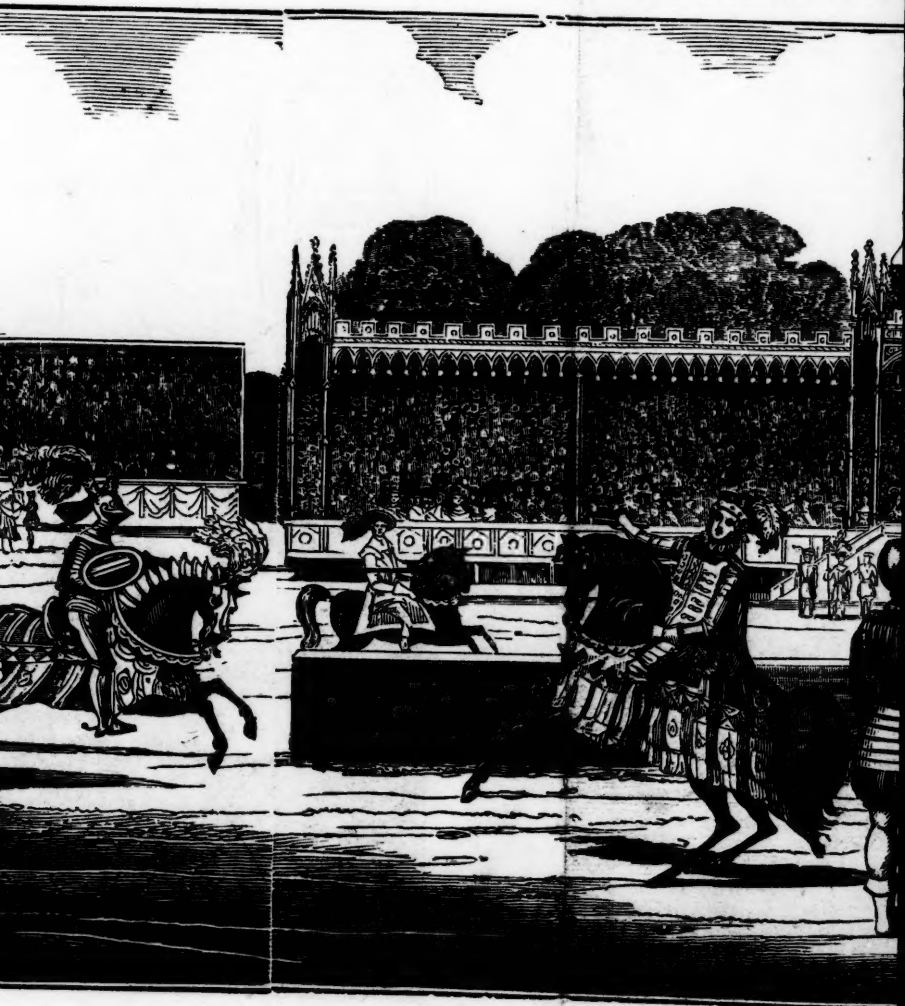




GRAND TOURNAMENT

(AUGUST)

ENGRAVED FROM AN ORIGINAL DRAWING



AT EGLINTON CASTLE,

(MDCCLXXXIX.)

WING, EXPRESSLY FOR "THE MIRROR

